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The following fish consumption advisory was issued on 2/11/2009 by the Department of Health & Hospitals, the Department of Environmental Quality, and the Department of Wildlife & Fisheries. For more information, please contact:

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FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY FOR CADDO LAKE

In response to recent sampling and analysis of fish tissue data, the Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals (DHH), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and Department of Wildlife & Fisheries (DWF) are issuing the following advisory for Caddo Lake in Caddo Parish where unacceptable levels of mercury have been detected in bowfin (choupique, grinnel).

DHH, DEQ and DWF advise that the following precautions be taken when eating fish taken from Caddo Lake:

- **Women of childbearing age and children less than seven years of age should consume no more than SIX MEALS PER YEAR of bowfin (choupique, grinnel) from the advisory area. (A meal considered to be half a pound of fish for adults and children.)**
- **Other adults and children seven years of age and older should consume no more than TWO MEALS PER MONTH of bowfin from the advisory area. (A meal is considered to be half a pound of fish for adults and children.)**

Louisiana fish consumption advisories are based on the estimate that the average Louisiana resident eats four fish meals per month (1 meal = ½ pound). Adults that eat more than four meals of fish a month, and women of child-bearing age and children that eat more than one meal of fish a month from local waterbodies, might increase their health risks. You can contact the Office of Public Health toll free at 1-888-293-7020 for more information about eating fish that contain chemicals.

